

SPECIAL MEETING NORTH SMITHFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

JANUARY 4, 2016

KENDALL-DEAN SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

6:30 P.M.

The meeting began at 6:30 P.M. with the prayer and the pledge to the flag. Council members present were Mr. Soly, Mr. Zwolenski and Mr. Boucher. Also in attendance were Town Administrator Hamilton and Town Solicitor Iglioizzi.

**PUBLIC HEARING ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT SECTION 6.13
PARKING AND STORAGE OF CERTAIN VEHICLES**

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Soly, and voted 3 to 0 on a roll call vote to continue the public hearing to February 15, 2016.

**PUBLIC HEARING ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT SECTION 6.14
PARKING, STORAGE OR USE OF MAJOR RECREATIONAL
EQUIPMENT**

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Soly, and voted 3 to 0 on a roll call vote to continue the public hearing to February 15, 2016.

January 4, 2016

(Mrs. Nadeau arrived at 6:35 P.M.)

VICTUALING LICENSE FOR AB CORP. D/B/A LOTUS

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Boucher, and voted 4 to 0 on a roll call vote to approve a victualing license for Lotus.

**TRAFFIC ISSUES ON PROVIDENCE PIKE AND GREENVILLE ROAD
AND PROPOSED ROUNDABOUT AT INTERSECTION OF ROUTES 104
AND 5**

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Boucher, and voted 4 to 0 on an aye vote to open this matter up for public discussion.

This was continued from an initial discussion on October 19, 2015.

Steven Pristawa, Chief Civil Engineer, and Jill Nascimento, Senior Civil Engineer, gave a slide presentation noting that roundabouts result in reduction of vehicle speeds, severity of crashes, vehicle emissions and fuel consumption. They are good for all modes of traffic.

(Ms. Alves arrived at 6:49 P.M.)

Questions were raised by Council members about crosswalks, sidewalks and snow removal.

School Committee Chairwoman Merredythe Nadeau provided a summary of questions posed by Superintendent Lindberg and Principal McGee and responses received from Ms. Nascimento.

Local resident Dennis Falardeau had many concerns, not only with the roundabout, but with traffic/speeding/signage issues on Providence Pike, Grange Road and Greenville Road. He offered several alternatives.

Tony Guertin commented that, because the roundabout is proposed to be constructed near the high school, there will be many new drivers in that area who may get confused because the roundabouts are not a common thing.

Paul Soares has driven in numerous roundabouts and thinks they are terrible. Being near a school is a huge safety issue.

Steven Biron noted statistics show there have not been a large number of crashes at that intersection. The study used by DOT appears to be very outdated.

Gary Ezovski does not oppose the idea of a roundabout; he has seen them work positively if properly designed. He feels there is more traffic in this area because people are looking to avoid the Sayles Hill Road intersection and the money could be better spent there.

Robert Goodwin questioned if any land would have to be taken.

Michael Rapko agreed that there is a high traffic volume and fast speeds on Greenville Road and Providence Pike and, unfortunately,

the police department is not able to patrol the areas constantly.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Ms. Alves, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to thank the Department of Transportation for their thirty percent design build out, but after hearing the residents this evening, it doesn't appear this is the proper time for a roundabout at the intersection of Routes 104 and 5. Incorporated in the motion is a request that DOT look at the intersection of Routes 146A and 5 (Slattersville Plaza) for safety issues.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Ms. Alves and Mr. Soly, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to close this public hearing.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Soly, and voted unanimously on an aye vote at 8:21 P.M. to take a five-minute recess.

The meeting resumed at 8:28 P.M.

January 4, 2016

**PUBLIC HEARING CHARTER AMENDMENT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
VS TOWN MANAGER**

Michael Rapko summarized some of the concerns/recommendations that had been discussed at a prior hearing.

Mr. Iglioizzi suggested discussing the proposed amendment paragraph by paragraph, getting input and then assembling a working draft.

Paul Vadenais suggested adding an MBA instead of just a Bachelor's Degree as part of the qualifications. He also thought maybe the town could run more efficiently if Council membership was increased and terms were staggered, if the Administrator's term was increased to four years and the salary was increased to attract more people. Mr. Vadenais also believes the Town has not followed the Charter or State Constitution by not forming a Charter Commission.

Lucien Benoit is in favor of a Town Manager but recommends the candidate have strength in economic development. More qualified people will be found through a search.

Carol Drainville is averse to appointments of School Committee members, agrees there should be a Charter Commission, does not want the Town Council to have too much authority. She feels the prior Charter changes were not well written.

Dinna Finnegan asked if any thought has been given to staggering terms for board and commission members.

Mrs. Nadeau felt staggered terms for Council members should be

investigated as well.

Mr. Zwolenski had reservations about staggered terms for Council members. If residents are unhappy with a Council member or Town Administrator, they can vote the person out in two years.

MOTION by Mrs. Nadeau to create a Charter Review Commission to review the Charter and come up with recommendations.

The motion was subsequently withdrawn.

Mr. Iglioizzi commented that if you appoint a Charter Review Commission and they do a Charter review and submit it to the Council, then the Town Council has a responsibility under the State Constitution to place any amendments before the voters at a future election.

MOTION by Mrs. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski and Mr. Boucher, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to close this public hearing on the proposed Charter amendments including, but not limited to, a Town Administrator vs a Town Manager.

MOTION by Mrs. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to place on the agenda of March 7, 2016 the creation of a Charter Review Commission.

**PUBLIC HEARING ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT SECTION 6.13
PARKING AND STORAGE OF CERTAIN VEHICLES**

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mrs. Nadeau, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to withdraw the earlier motion continuing the public hearing to February 15, 2016.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Soly, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to continue the public hearing to February 16, 2016.

**PUBLIC HEARING ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT SECTION 6.14
PARKING, STORAGE OR USE OF MAJOR RECREATIONAL
EQUIPMENT**

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mrs. Nadeau, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to withdraw the earlier motion continuing the public hearing to February 15, 2016.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Soly, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to continue the public hearing to February 16, 2016.

January 4, 2016

**PUBLIC HEARING RE: TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM**

Town Planner Robert Ericson provided a list of priority projects for

the next ten years and reviewed those with high priority.

Mr. Zwolenski complained about the merge from Route 146 onto Route 99 South and asked if Ms. Hamilton could reach out to the local representatives to obtain signage.

MOTION by Mr. Boucher, seconded by Mr. Soly and Mr. Zwolenski, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to close the public hearing.

SOLAR POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT - ENERGY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Back in September Mr. Frank Epps reported that the first year savings would be \$68,686 with an average savings over the term of the agreement of \$96,000+. Corrected numbers are \$76,388 in savings for the first year and an average savings amount thereafter of \$106,768.

Mr. Iglioizzi noted that a final change has just recently been made to the agreement. He felt there was some very strong language in favor of Mr. Epps but Mr. Epps did agree to have some similar language inserted for the benefit of the town.

Because the Council members did not have the final document to review, MOTION by Mr. Boucher, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to continue this to January 19, 2016.

FUNDING OF SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY PURCHASE (CHROMEBOOKS, CARTS, DESKTOPS)

School Committee members were present seeking a decision as to whether the Town will fund the technology purchase in the amount of \$63,622 in light of the fact that, based on an opinion letter from the Department of Education dated December 3, 2015, it will affect town Maintenance of Effort obligations.

Mr. Boucher questioned if the town could purchase the equipment and donate it to the School Department.

Although Mr. Igliozi could not answer that question specifically, he did state that the Department of Education strongly frowns upon any town circumventing the Maintenance of Effort.

Finance Director Jason Parmelee believes that RIDE considers the equipment to be a consumable, like a textbook.

Mr. Zwolenski asked if the School Committee has a plan for the utilization of the fund balance and was told that they are working on it.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mrs. Nadeau, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to continue this discussion to February 1, 2016 at which time the School Committee will have a plan for use of the school department fund balance.

MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS SURVEY

It has been brought to the attention of Mrs. Nadeau that Studio Meja will need a full site survey of Kendall-Dean and Bushee School.

MOTION by Mrs. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Soly, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to amend the agenda to discuss an update on the road bonds since the topic was brought up during this hearing.

Mr. Joseph Cardello, a member of the PBIC, explained a meeting had been held recently regarding the road bonds. To date, field reviews of all roads suggested by the Casali study have been completed and all roadways have been designed to the 75 percent stage. Right now the project is about one week ahead of schedule. Based on the bond there is approximately \$2.2 million to spend on road resurfacing or reconstruction. Based on the Pare Corporation design, the town will be able to complete fifty to sixty percent of the entire length suggested in the Casali study. After review by Pare Corporation and the Department of Public Works, full depth reclamation is being proposed for most of the roads.

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DPW CATCH BASIN TRUCK

Raymond Pendergast, Director of Public Works, is seeking permission to acquire a new catch basin truck. Normally, he would go through the capital budget process but because of DEM requirements, the process needs to be expedited.

Mr. Pendergast has been searching for a catch basin truck to rent and has been unable to find one.

(MOTION by Mrs. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Boucher, and voted unanimously on an aye vote at 10:00 P.M. to continue the meeting to 10:30 P.M.)

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mrs. Nadeau, and voted 4 to 1 (Ms. Alves recused) on a roll call vote to allow the Director of Public Works and the Finance Director to go out to bid for a catch basin truck with and without a plow.

SCHEDULING PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR ABANDONMENT OF MCMULLEN AVENUE

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Boucher, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to hold the public hearing on March 7, 2016 and to refer the matter to the Planning Board for review.

AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR DIESEL FUEL AND UNLEADED GASOLINE

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mrs. Nadeau, and voted

unanimously on a roll call vote to award a one-year contract for diesel fuel to Superior Plus Energy at a rate of plus \$0.0321 per gallon and for unleaded gasoline to Santa Buckley Energy at a rate of plus \$0.0409 per gallon based upon the recommendations of the Public Works Director, the Finance Director and the Town Administrator.

ABATEMENT

MOTION by Mr. Boucher, seconded by Mrs. Nadeau, and voted 4 to 1 on a roll call vote (Mr. Zwolenski voted no) to accept the abatement of \$179.75 due to a Department of Motor Vehicles error.

APPOINTMENT OF TREE WARDEN

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Soly, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to reappoint Stanley Zuba as the Tree Warden.

NEW POLE LOCATION ON TIFFT ROAD - NATIONAL GRID/VERIZON

National Grid wants to add a pole set. Due to the weight and the form of the road, they need to put an anchor pole across the street as well.

MOTION by Mr. Soly, seconded by Mrs. Nadeau, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve adding Poles No. 27-50 and 27-84 on Tifft Road for National Grid and to authorize the document to be signed.

APPOINTMENT TO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Boucher, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to support Ms. Hamilton's appointment of Michael Desrochers. This is a two-year term that will expire on December 1, 2016.

APPOINTMENT TO PERSONNEL BOARD

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Boucher, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to support Ms. Hamilton's appointment of Suzanne Bernier. This is a three-year term that will expire on December 1, 2018.

APPOINTMENT TO REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

MOTION by Mrs. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Boucher, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to appoint Sean Malcolm. This is the completion of a five-year term that expires on December 1, 2016.

APPOINTMENT OF 2ND ALTERNATE ON PLANNING BOARD

There was no appointment.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Boucher, and voted unanimously on an aye vote at 10:27 P.M. to continue the meeting to 11:00 P.M.

January 4, 2016

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Boucher, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to enter into executive session at 10:29 P.M. pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(A)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation to discuss 1.) Rockcliff Farm Development Sewer Assessment and 2.) Potential litigation.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Boucher, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to come out of executive session at 11:04 P.M. and to seal the minutes. No motions were made and no votes were taken.

MOTION by Ms. Alves, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to adjourn at 11:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra A. Todd, Town Clerk